



REPORT

To: Rural Budgets Administration Committee

Report Number: FN-RBAC-308

From: Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer

Date: April 25, 2024

Subject: Grant Request – Spark Women’s Leadership Conference Society

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee authorize a funding commitment in the amount of \$5,000 payable in equal amounts of

- \$2,500 from Function 120 – Electoral Area C Fair Share, and
- \$2,500 from Function 120 – Electoral Area D Fair Share

to be issued to the Spark Women’s Leadership Conference Society to assist with the costs of their annual conference.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Spark Women’s Leadership Conference Society (Society) is requesting a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to assist with the costs of hosting their annual conference. The Society is celebrating their 11th anniversary in hosting the conference with a two-day event to be held in Fort St. John. The conference is designed by women of the Peace Region for women of the Peace Region. The goal of the event is to provide professional development opportunities to the female workforce to empower female leaders to grow and build professionally. The total cost of the event will be \$177,000.

The Society has various sponsorship packages to choose from that align with the proposed \$5,000 Peace River Regional District (PRRD) sponsorship commitment. Sponsorship package options provided by the Society are attached.

Previously, the PRRD has provided the Sparks Women’s Leadership Conference Society with the following grants:

- 2023 \$5,000
- 2022 \$2,500
- 2021 \$5,000
- 2019 \$2,500
- 2018 \$2,500
- 2017 \$2,500

All grants before 2022 were funded through Grant-in-Aid programs that no longer exist. In 2022, the grant funding was paid in equal amounts from Function 120 – Electoral Area C BC Rail and Function 120 – Electoral Area D Fair Share. In 2023, the grant funding was paid in equal amounts from Function 120 – Electoral Area C & D Fair Share.

Spark Women’s Leadership is a registered not-for-profit Society in good standing with the *Societies Act of BC*.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Rural Budget Administration Committee authorize a funding commitment in the amount of \$5,000; \$2,500 payable from Area C BC Rail and \$2,500 from Function 120 – Electoral Area D Fair Share fund, to be issued to the Sparks Women’s Leadership Conference Society to assist with the costs of their annual conference.
2. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee respectfully deny the grant application from Sparks Women’s Leadership Conference Society.
3. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

As of March 31, 2024, the balance after remaining commitments Electoral Area C Fair Share was \$988,562.13.

As of March 31, 2024, the balance after remaining commitments Electoral Area D Fair Share was \$580,570.52.

As of March 31, 2024, the balance after remaining commitments Electoral Area C BC Rail/PRA was \$33,049.65.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

The applicant will be notified in writing of the Committee’s decision and, if funding is approved, will be asked to recognize the Peace River Regional District contribution.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

Attachments:

1. Grant Application – Spark Women’s Leadership Conference Society
2. Spark Women’s Leadership Conference Society Sponsorship Package

External Links:

1. [Electoral Area Grant-in-Aid Policy #0340-69](#)